

1.12.08: Lt. Governor Delivers Keynote Speech at Planning and Conservation League Conference

Lieutenant Governor Garamendi's Prepared Remarks PCL Conference- Saturday, January 12, 2008

Sacramento- Thank you very much for the kind introduction. I am honored to be able to address such an important organization in California and to talk with you about our common challenges, our shared obligations and most importantly, the solutions at our fingertips.

There is an astute quote by Arnold Glasgow that reads, "One of the true tests of leadership is the ability to recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency."

We are on the brink of an emergency and the world is in desperate need of our leadership.

All of you have heard of Al Gore's book, or seen the movie "The Inconvenient Truth." And while many people outside of this room, because of the efforts of Al Gore and others, are just waking up to the issue of climate change; like Al Gore, I've been working on energy issues for decades.

During the energy crisis of the 1970's as a California lawmaker I authored laws that provided significant tax reductions for energy conservation, and for wind and solar energy development.

As Lieutenant Governor I am proud to be Commissioner of the State Lands Commission. I will continue to require robust analysis of all the major projects that come before the Commission, and to seek mitigation and offset as a condition of project approval.

The LNG facility off the Coast of Malibu is an example of a project that tests which path this state will take. The path of reducing our dependence on nonrenewable carbon fuels or the path that bases our energy systems on re-newable energy and conservation. We must choose the renewable and conservation path and therefore I rejected the LNG facility. which would commit California to a non renewable energy source.

Not surprisingly, applicants proposing projects under the jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission are now taking the initiative to come forward with plans to make their projects "carbon neutral".

Now let's go back to the challenges at hand, all of which you are all too familiar with.

- We have seen the ocean level at the Golden Gate rise six inches in the last 100 years. We anticipate that the Pacific Ocean along our coast will rise nearly a half meter, within the next 20 years. A sea level rise of that magnitude will create extraordinary problems for our state and the world.

- Sierra snowpack, which accounts for approximately half of the surface water storage in the State, could decline by as much as 70% over the next few decades.

- The California agricultural industry faces dramatic losses from limited water storage, and the structural integrity of the State's levee and flood control systems in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta are in jeopardy.

- Rising temperatures will increase forest fires. We have seen this firsthand with the recent devastating Southern California Wildfires, resulting in the loss of lives and millions of dollars of public money for suppression and damage repair, further decreasing air quality, and damaging public health.

And the list goes on and on..

But enough of the doom and gloom climate change picture that we all clearly see painted on the current California canvas. I want to talk to you about what we can and must do to paint a different portrait for our future - it involves two things, immediate action and adaptation.

Immediate action must be taken to reduce GHG emissions.

- California must continue to take the lead and has already taken steps toward fighting climate change with legislation like AB 32.

- AB 32 is an example of the necessary action that must be taken to reduce GHG emissions. This important legislation provides the data, the referee, and when necessary the Big Stick, of government to address Global Climate

Change. The government can set standards, create baselines, and get everyone on the same page.

• Additional action by the Air Resources Board including mandatory reporting for the organizations in California responsible for the greatest production of GHG is a step in the right direction.

I am excited and impressed by the work that CARB and the Climate Action Team have accomplished so far. The analysis, organization, policy setting and implementation of this sweeping law is cause for new faith in Government.

We certainly have a long way to go. And of course the deadlines are drawing closer. We are fighting for the Pavley Bill in court against our own federal EPA. We are awaiting CARB's full scoping plan and the eventual implementation of the low carbon fuel standards. We must also take the leadership in establishing powerful market based mechanisms that provide incentives for individuals, companies industries to reduce their GHG emissions. Stringent cap and trade systems must be in our future, and there must also be command and control mechanisms where cap and trade do not work..

In facing these challenges we are blazing the trail for all the other states, our nation and other countries of the world. It is a great tragedy that George W Bush and his oil government have wasted eight years by refusing to address the Climate Crisis. But in 12 months we will be rid of him and his backward government. Then California's leadership will really be important as we export our laws, regulations, technology and our experience to other states and nations

The actions I just outlined are vital to the future of this great state. But it does not stop there. There is another less discussed side to the fight against climate change - adaptation. California must adapt to the climate change that is already underway.

Leadership in adaptation strategies is required at every level of state, local, and regional government, and within very aspect of the private sector.

This means elected officials certainly, but it also means teachers, city planners, procurement officers, local utility executives, and waste management officials. It means construction workers, contractors, restaurant owners, and shoe makers, designers, engineers, and mail carriers.

Each of us must be leaders in our workplaces, our communities and our homes. Leadership in adaptation strategies must be as pervasive and individualized as the problem.

In my travels through California as Lt. Governor I have been able to learn first hand about innovations in every city and county and within private business. This has included the bold work of the City and County of San Francisco, San Jose, San Mateo, Santa Cruz and others.

I have been privileged to see first hand the innovation of our researchers merge with the venture capital industry to create exciting new enterprises in bio fuel, solar thermal, wind photo-voltaic and ingenious systems to deliver efficient autos and devices for home and industry. Without a doubt this will be the new economic wave in California. It is already fueled with \$3billion of venture capital.

As a regent of the University of California and a Trustee at the State University System I have been successful in accelerating the movement towards energy, efficiency. I believe that every renovation of an existing building and every new building must be at least a LEED Silver building.

Local Governments can lead the way toward a greener California. Land use decisions are crucial in meeting the goal of GHG reduction.

• The recent settlement in San Bernardino County lays out a road map for all local jurisdictions in the state. This provides for targeted reductions in GHGs for discretionary land use decisions and county operations. The settlement creates a 1990 baseline, and measures current and projected emissions. It also creates an inventory of currently existing GHGs existing in the county.

• Cities are working through the Conference of Mayors to create sustainable cities. Each of these initiatives requires the efforts of all of the leaders within cities and counties.

• Initiatives like Berkeley's plan to create local improvement districts to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy investments by individual homeowners sets the bar high for other local governments to emulate.

As I talk about the potential for adaptation strategies to combat climate change San Diego stands out as a striking example.

When I stood in the devastation following the San Diego fires, I was viscerally certain of the contribution of climate

change to these tragic wildfires. I became more committed than ever to local, state, federal and international efforts to mitigate the potential disaster. But I also understood in a very real way that it is already too late to prevent many of the consequences of climate change.

We must adapt by investing in flood control, water management, fire prevention, and sea wall protection along our coastlines. Our infrastructure and water bonds are a start, but this will be a major issue for all of our cities and counties going forward.

San Diego can be an inspirational story to all of us. I am hopeful that as San Diego's communities rebuild, they will do so by going green from the ground up. This is an opportunity to put in place all that we have learned about fire resistant construction, as well as to re-think our entire view of community planning.

We can go beyond title 24 and stretch toward LEED Standards. Homeowners can work with local planning commissions, utilities, and insurance companies to fashion and make use of subsidies to install more renewable energy in homes. And homeowners can do their part to conserve water by combining modern appliances and plumbing fixtures with mandatory zero or low water use landscaping and native flora. Efficient low use drip systems and efficient and safe methods of recycling water are also important for homeowners wanting to do their part in going green.

There is good news, and certainly hope, as we face this critical challenge of global warming.

The innovation and redirection of human capital that is necessary to solve the global warming problem will conserve resources, increase productivity and create new jobs.

By 2020, we can expect a net increase of 83,000 jobs and \$4 billion, in income, above and beyond the substantial growth that will occur between today and 2020.

So called "clean tech" investment has doubled over the last two years, bringing the total to about \$ 2.9 billion.

This is a winning strategy. We are saving in the long run by investing in the present.

California has a proud history of facing seemingly insurmountable challenges that prepares it to face the climate change crisis.

As Californians we have the resources and the obligation to face the challenge of Global Climate Change. Because we are endowed with talent, innovation, resources, and wealth, and strong democratic institutions we must lead the nation and the world toward sustainable solutions.

We have made a very good start, one that we can be proud of. We continue to be a leader in implementing energy efficiency and lead the nation- all the way to court- in vehicle emissions control. The world is watching and will benefit from our experiment.

The truth is that each one of us is the solution. Every product we buy, every material we handle, every process that we engage in, every trip we take must be questioned. Am I doing this in the most environmentally friendly way possible? Individuals create the demand for products and services that use up our atmosphere and we must therefore all examine our contribution, and find ways to mitigate our own impact.

This journey toward a sustainable path is not a walk of austerity. I firmly believe that the changes we will make will bring us health and prosperity in the long run. If we find a truly sustainable path, we will not simply avert disaster, we will instead create the kind of world we want leave our children.